

National Republican.

W. J. MURTAUGH, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE SCALP POLICY.

It is reported upon good authority that General Sherman has expressed himself strongly in favor of fighting Indians by Indian methods, and especially by offering a bounty for Modoc scalps. Undoubtedly the proposition will excite great opposition in some quarters; but after all to this is soon an answer, that the Indians are not to be had.

The scalps are not perhaps indispensable part of the programme; but it is pre-eminently necessary that some plan should be devised for calling out the frontiersmen and friendly Indians, and stimulating their zeal by liberal rewards payable only upon full proof of actual service.

In other words, we must hunt the Modocs down with traps and hawks; we must pay these men, and we must see that they get a full equivalent in our country.

Not that the regular troops should be withdrawn. When properly handled, there can be no doubt of their real value as Indian fighters. The recent success of Crook in the Southwest furnish good evidence of this.

Three or four months ago a series of hostilities, dating from their origin as far back as the Spanish conquest, were in full progress; and now, after a brief and energetic campaign, was peace completely established. The situation in the West is similar to his in relation to Governor McCormick, when, after threatening that gentleman for his efficient aid, he states that the work of pacification has so far proceeded that he hopes to make voters out of the whole band of Apaches before the next election comes around. This remarkable success shows what can be accomplished by an army officer, left absolutely unhampered by any outside influence, and possessing in himself the very qualities of mind and body which would have made him an admirable frontiersman; has his lot been cast among the civilians of the border. Gen. Crook's tastes and talents as a humorist have always been matters of some celebrity among his associates, and in his latest achievements he has only carried three into a larger sphere of action.

These principles apply with still greater force to warfare with the Modocs. The track which they are now making, one of the most celebrated in the world, is wonderfully adapted to the warlike genius of the Indian as developed from the Indian of the plains.

Now, if our history, either colonial or national, has taught us anything, it is the fullness of fighting forest Indians by regular evolutions and movements en masse.

The route of Braddock's regulars and the successful stand of Washington's rear guard of Virginia borderers furnished an early and striking lesson. This has been repeated again and again ever since; but it seems as if we were failing to take it to heart.

For once let us show our sense, and encourage the hunters and rovers to fight the Modocs after their own fashion.

FRANCE.

The European press informs us of the defeat of M. Thiers' wishes by the citizens of Paris in their election of M. Barodet to the vacant seat in the National Assembly.

The successful candidate was the central mayor of Lyons, and was deprived of that office by the Government, which for some time back had the appointment of those functionaries. M. Barodet has been accustomed to hold his head very high, refusing to recognize any superiority in the authority of the Prefect of the Rhône, and by his great conceit seriously wounded the feelings of the Comte de Poix.

Radisca conceived a sudden affection for the ex-mayor of Lyons, and almost a month ago announced him as their candidate for the vacant seat in the Assembly. They well understood that it was the earnest desire of the President that M. de Remusat, who is not a Deputy, although a Minister, should be elected.

Yet, as they explained, it was not their intention to humiliate the Government, but merely to administer a timely warning.

M. Thiers' wishes were not realized with the formation of the new Government of both the great cities named. For a long time Gambetta opposed the election of Barodet, but seeing that such opposition would prove fruitless he graciously acquiesced in the prevailing sentiment of the capital, and has since floated along with it.

Barodet's election, all things considered, is a gain to the Conservatives, because that gentleman, by his contempt of generals, his scolding of prefects, and his proneness of religious teachings, can be pointed out by the leaders of the Conservative party of republicanism, as the Conservatives regard it. His election may be taken as an indication that the leaders of the Republican party, who have the best interests of the state at heart, are powerless to restrain the tendencies of a mob of foolish and violent men, ignorant of their duties and abominant rights as citizens.

The policy of the Left has not been confined for some weeks past, nor has it been with the French, to be a mere fit of irritation to be reduced to a wisp. It did not attempt to hide its resolution to do all in its power to defeat Thiers' favorite, M. de Remusat, for the purpose, as M. Gambetta's mouthpiece said, of showing "the world that we do not support M. Thiers or his government."

The defeat of M. de Remusat and that of M. Grevy and of M. Martel, despite the certain support given the latter by the Government, is a clear sign that the French friends of the Left, who have been so long in the ascendant, are reduced to a wisp.

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